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THE

Medical Library Association

OF CHICAGO.

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OF CHICAGO.

Incorporated Sept. 17, 1880.

CHICAGO:
1889.



ROGERSON & STOCKTON, PRINTERS, 184 AND 186 MONROE ST., CHICAGO.

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OFFICERS

OF THE MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO

N. S. DAVIS, <i>President</i> ,	-	-	-	65 Randolph St.
E. W. LEE, <i>Vice-President</i> ,	-	-	-	204 Dearborn St.
E. INGALS, <i>Treasurer</i> ,	-	-	-	34 Throop St.
BAYARD HOLMES, <i>Secretary</i> ,	-	-	-	125 State St.

DIRECTORS

FOR THE FIRST YEAR.

H. A. JOHNSON, M. D.

G. A. HALL, M. D.

BAYARD HOLMES, M. D.

A. W. HARLAN, M.D.

W. E. HALE, Esq.

D. A. K. STEELE, M. D.

J. H. ETHRIDGE, M. D.

J. W. STREETER, M. D.

W. F. SMITH, M. D.

CHARTER.

I. The name of this Association shall be the Medical Library Association of Chicago.

II. The object of this Association is the establishment and maintenance of a Library of Medicine and the allied sciences.

III. The rules for the government of this Association shall be prescribed by the By-Laws.

BY-LAWS.

1. Members of this Association shall be denominated Life Members, Governing Members, Annual Members, and Honorary Members.

2. Life Members shall be those who pay into the Treasury not less than three hundred dollars in equal annual payments of one hundred dollars each.

3. Governing Members shall be life members and those who pay to the Treasurer an initiatory fee of one hundred dollars, and an annual assessment of not more than ten dollars, and subscribe to these By-Laws.

4. Annual Members shall be those who pay the annual assessment of not more than ten dollars. They shall have all the privileges of Governing Members except the right to hold office and to vote at annual and special meetings.

5. Non-residents who have done this Association valuable service or conferred honor upon it in a marked degree, may be made Honorary Members by the unanimous vote of the Board of Directors at any regular meeting, providing a notice of such proposed vote shall have been posted in the Library for, at least, one week previous. Honorary Members shall be entitled to all the privileges of the Library accorded to Annual Members.

6. The Secretary of the Association shall issue

cards of membership in accordance with the preceding rules, on presentation of evidence of their fulfillment. All cards shall expire on the first day of the month in which the annual meeting is held, except those of life members.

7. The Treasurer may be authorized by the Directors to take the individual notes of Governing Members for not more than three-fourths of the initiatory fee. These notes shall bear interest, and be payable within one year from the beginning of the membership.

8. Any member may be expelled by a unanimous vote of the Directors for unbecoming conduct or failure to comply with the requirements of these By-Laws.

9. The annual meeting of the Association shall be held on the first Friday in October, between the hours of four and nine P. M. At least five days previous to the annual meeting the Secretary shall mail a notice of such meeting to each governing member. This notice shall state the place and time of meeting, the business to be transacted, and the time during which the polls will be open.

10. Special meetings may be held to transact special business, and the Secretary shall call special meetings at the order of the Board of Directors. The call shall specify the business to be transacted and no other business shall be transacted at a special meeting.

11. The election of officers shall be held on the day of the annual meeting. It shall be by ballot deposited

by governing members in person. The judges of election shall consist of the Secretary and two tellers appointed by the Board of Directors. The polls shall be open for at least three hours, and they shall be closed half an hour after the annual meeting is called to order. The judges of election shall declare the result of the election in the open annual meeting.

In voting for Directors each governing member may deposit as many ballots as there are Directors to be elected.

12. The officers of this Association shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Board of nine Directors.

13. The President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected at the annual meeting, and they shall hold their offices for one year, or until their successors are elected and qualified.

14. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association and the Board of Directors. He shall be *ex-officio* a member of the Board of Directors and all its committees, but he shall not be entitled to a vote except in case of a tie.

The President, together with the Secretary, shall sign all certificates of membership, deeds, mortgages, and other instruments under seal, and all promissory notes.

15. The Vice-President shall exercise all the powers of the President in case of his absence or disability.

16. The Secretary shall keep all the accounts of the Association in books belonging to it, issue all notices of meetings, note the proceedings of the same and enter them upon the minute book and cause to be published all notices which by law require publication. He shall also conduct the general correspondence of the Association, and shall have custody of its seal, charter, By laws and other records, all of which shall be open at all reasonable times to the inspection of any member. He shall also at the annual meeting of the Association present a detailed statement showing the financial condition of the Association.

17. The Treasurer shall collect and, under the direction of the Board of Directors, disburse the funds. He shall report in writing at each regular meeting of the Board of Directors the balance of money on hand, and as far as practicable, the outstanding obligations of the Association, and he shall make a full report at the annual meeting of the receipts and disbursements of the year, with any suggestions in regard to the financial management of the Association which he may deem proper. He shall, upon taking office give a bond to the Directors with one or more sureties, approved by them in the penal sum of \$50,000, and conditioned for the faithful performance of his duties, and to account for all funds that shall come to his hands as such Treasurer.

18. At the second annual meeting in October, 1890, nine Directors shall be elected by ballot, who shall, at their first regular meeting, be divided by lot into three

classes. The first class shall hold their offices for one year, the second class shall hold their offices for two years, the third class shall hold their offices for three years; and each of them until his successor is elected and qualified.

At each succeeding annual meeting three Directors shall be elected by ballot for a term of three years each

19. The President and Secretary of the Association shall be *ex-officio* President and Secretary of the Board of Directors, but they shall have no vote in its affairs except as elsewhere provided.

These nine Directors, with the President and Secretary, shall constitute the Board of Directors. They shall hold regular monthly meetings at the Library; they shall make rules governing their proceedings, and provide for all emergencies. They may engage a Librarian for a term of not more than three years, and make all necessary rules and regulations for his action. They shall have charge of all property of the Association, and conduct all its business affairs. They may appoint committees, and make rules governing the same. All of their actions are subject to these By-Laws.

20. The Library shall be open to members from ten o'clock A. M. until ten o'clock P. M.

21. The rooms of the Library may be used for the meetings of societies whose members are composed wholly, or in part, of members of this Association. The terms of such meetings and other necessary arrangements shall be in charge of the Board of Directors.

22. When societies are holding meetings in the Library, all members of the society and its invited guests shall be entitled to the use of the library during the time of the meeting.

23. Visitors will be admitted to the Library only on invitation of a member, and when accompanied by him. Visitors residing in the city of Chicago shall be termed resident visitors, and shall not be admitted oftener than once in three months. All others shall be termed non-resident visitors. Non-resident visitors, at the written recommendation of a governing member, may obtain a visitor's card from the Secretary, entitling him to the privileges of the Library for a term of two weeks.

24. Students of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and allied sciences in actual attendance upon lectures in the city of Chicago may obtain a student's ticket upon the written recommendation of a governing member, and the presentation to the Secretary of evidence of attendance upon such lectures. Students' tickets shall be issued for three months or a fraction of the same, and they shall expire on the first day of January, April, July and October. A governing member shall be entitled to recommend the issue of two students' tickets at a time, and no more, and he shall be responsible for the conduct of students using these tickets, and shall pay all fines incurred by them.

25. No debt beyond the running expenses of the Library shall be created unless it shall have been previously recommended by the Board of Directors and

ordered by a two-thirds vote of the members present at a regular or special meeting.

26. Any By-Law may be amended, or new By-Laws adopted, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any regular or special meeting, called for that specific purpose; provided the same shall have been proposed to the Board of Directors at a regular meeting, and posted in the Library at least ten days before such meeting; and notice of the proposed amendment or By-Law shall be sent to each member in the call for such special meeting.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

HISTORY.

A Library Committee has been appointed by the Chicago Medical Society for a number of years. The Committee has done good work in soliciting funds from physicians and advising the Library Committee of the Chicago Public Library in the expenditures for medical works. Dr Edmund Andrews has always been one of the most active members of that Committee. In the winter of 1888-'89, a special Library Committee was appointed to consider the most acceptable plan of securing **a library of medicine for Chicago.**

The Committee had a number of conferences with the trustees and officers of the Newberry Library in the effort to get them to undertake a medical department. In these conferences it was learned by the Committee that the Newberry trustees would never undertake to provide a loan library in any department. Whatever books they provided would have to be consulted in the library building, which will be located on Walton Place and Clark street. The officers did not think anything could be done in the medical department until the completion of the new building. Even then they did not think they would provide the sort of a library the Committee recommended.

The Committee after four months' labors in that direction, reported to the Chicago Medical Society, in substance, as follows:

The three following presented themselves.

1. To obtain, through the intervention of friends of the organization, suitable quarters in the Chicago Public Library in exchange for the journals, books, etc., of the Association.

2. To induce the Newberry Library to establish a medical department.

3. Erect, buy, or rent a fire-proof building with suitable rooms wherein medical and other scientific societies can meet.

It was learned that the Chicago Public Library did not care to burden itself with a larger medical department than it now possesses.

The need and plan of a medical department was presented to the trustees of the Newberry library in detail, as well as an account of the work already accomplished by the Committee.

The trustees manifested considerable interest, and requested that the verbal sketch of the project be submitted to them in writing, with all other information the Committee possessed, which might prove useful to them in deciding whether or not to carry out the plan.

Further, they requested an accurate descriptive list of those serials, transactions, and other publications considered necessary for the immediate demands of the readers, and desired that this Society make some further expression of interest in the matter.

Your Committee set about immediately to accumulate the required information, and has already sent the trustees much of importance and value.

It will be years, however, before the Newberry Library building is completed, and it is doubtful whether they will establish a department for us such as we require.

Furthermore, this institution is not centrally located, and, consequently, is not easily accessible to the majority of our colleagues.

Owing to these uncertainties and disadvantages the Committee would recommend:

1. That the physicians of Chicago undertake the erection of a Medical House and Library.

On the first Friday in August, the initial meeting was held at the Grand Pacific Hotel, to consider the establishment of the Library Association. The second meeting was held a month later. All its proceedings have been open, and the best advice has been sought. The By-laws attached show the plan of the organization.

Incorporation papers were secured Sept. 17, 1889. On the first Friday in October the first Annual Meeting was held under the By-laws, and officers were elected. Thus the organization has been perfected. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors have been held, and important business transacted.

WORK OF THE DIRECTORS.

At the present time the work of the Directors is in the line of increasing the membership. Many difficulties have been met. Sixty formal subscriptions have been made to governing memberships, and twenty or thirty informal subscriptions.

By a resolution of the Board of Directors, all money received for life memberships and initiatory fees for governing memberships will be devoted to a special fund to be used only in the purchase of a building and grounds.

The By-laws prohibit the Directors from assuming any debt without the sanction of the Association in Annual or Special Meeting assembled.

Thus every safeguard has been provided to secure the

prime object of the Society from miscarriage. The fact that numerous attempts to establish a library have been unsuccessful is no disgrace to those who were associated in the efforts, but rather to their honor. This effort commends itself to every interested man. It is to the honor of our city, and the encouragement of scientific investigation. It is worthy of a strong and enthusiastic support. The plan is accepted by all in a general way, though some criticisms have been made in detail. It is comprehensive and permanent. When a building has been secured which will itself furnish a moderate income, it will be very easy to pay the running expenses. Donations of books will pour in. The annual dues will be more than adequate to pay for current and back literature as far as it can be taken care of.

Our prime need is a library of *current* literature in every department of Medicine, Surgery and the Allied Sciences. This will be accessible in the reading-room without the assistance of the librarian. Then each important serial will be completed back to the beginning of its publication as fast as possible. Before such a complete file for reference has been secured, a duplicate file will be begun for the loan department, and a triplicate file for exchange. Most of the American serials are expected by donation. The total expense at the Academy of Medicine, in New York, for current serials in all languages is about \$800 per year. The total annual expenses for all literature possibly procurable for the library of the Surgeon General at Washington, is less than \$5,000. This includes many rare antiquities and valuable manuscripts.

It is estimated on the experience of the Medical Library Association of Boston, and the Academy of Medicine in New York, that our annual expense will be \$4,000. This will include books, binding, shelving, librarian, heating and lighting, and janitor service. An income of \$9,000 may be expected from annual dues, and over \$1,000 from the rent of the business or ground floor of our building, and there will still be a small income from the rent of rooms to societies, the sale of triplicates, and donations in money.

When the building has once been paid for, there will be no difficulty in the subsequent management. The Directors will then be blamed for taking up with such small quarters, and within a few years the Association will feel able to build a home which will rival the Art Institute in size and architectural beauty.

It may be asked where a building and grounds can be bought for even \$50,000 in a central location. Suitable property is offered for less than this sum within four blocks of the Court House. Not less than thirty feet in width will do for an audience room. In most of the buildings examined practical fireproofing can be secured at a moderate expense. The first floor can be rented for business. The second floor can be used for a reading room and audience room for society meetings. The remaining floors can be used for solid shelving. The weight of books require strong walls. Considering the rent of so large a part of the building, we may safely say that one-half the Building Fund is virtually an Endowment Fund.

THE APPEAL.

But these are anticipations. The object now is a membership and a permanent fund of at least \$30,000. The sooner it is secured, the sooner will the medical profession have a club and library. It is of such vital importance that it appeals to every public-spirited physician. We are often reported as differing with one another. Here is a point on which all can agree. Contention and strife are often exhibited in our ranks. In this matter, too, let there be a laudible contention to see who can best serve the project in money, in donations of books, and in personal devotion.

The accompanying blanks will offer the necessary facilities for subscription. If donations of books are to be made, a note to that effect, on the subscription blank, will be sufficient.

Let your subscriptions come in promptly, in order that those who are doubtful may see what doctors are in dead earnest in the matter.

Should you fail to send in your subscription, an authorized solicitor will be sent to you, who will explain more fully the plans and resources of the Association, and personally request your support.

INFORMATION ABOUT MEDICAL LIBRARIES;

BEING ABSTRACTS FROM ADDRESSES AT THE DEDICA-
TION BUILDING OF THE BOSTON MEDICAL
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

— BY —

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES,	Boston.
J. S. BILLINGS,	Washington.
JUSTIN WINDSOR,	Harvard University.
CHAS. W. ELIOT, LL.D., -	
DR. DAVID P. SMITH, -	Springfield.
DR. HENRY I. BOWDITCH,	Boston.
JAMES R. CHADWICK,	Boston.
CHAS. P. PUTNAM,	Boston.
AND OTHERS.	

INFORMATION ABOUT LIBRARIES.

We must not forget the various medical libraries which preceded this: that of an earlier period, when Boston contained about seventy regular practitioners, the collection afterward transferred to the Boston Athenæum; the two collections belonging to the University; the Treadwell Library at the Massachusetts General Hospital; the collections of the two societies, that for medical improvement and that for medical observation; and more especially the ten thousand volumes relating to medicine belonging to our noble public city library - too many blossom on the tree of knowledge, perhaps, for the best fruit to ripen. But the Massachusetts Medical Society now numbers nearly four hundred members in the city of Boston. The time had arrived for a new and larger movement. There was needed a place to which every respectable member of the medical profession could obtain easy access; where, under one roof, all might find the special information they were seeking; where the latest medical intelligence should be spread out daily as the shipping news is posted on the bulletins of the exchange; where men engaged in a common pursuit could meet, surrounded by the mute oracles of science and art; where the whole atmosphere should be as full of professional knowledge as the apothecary's shop is of the odor of his medicaments.

This was what the old men longed for—the prophets and kings of the profession, who

“desired it long,

But died without the sight.”

This is what the young men and those who worked under their guidance undertook to give us. And now such a library, such a reading room, such an exchange, such an intellectual and social meeting place, we behold a fact, plain before us. The medical profession of our city, and, let us add, of all those neighboring places which it can reach with its iron arms, is united as never before by the *communio sanguinis*, the common bond of a large, enduring, ennobling, unselfish interest. It breathes a new air of awakened intelligence. It marches abreast of the other learned professions, which have long had their extensive and valuable centralized libraries; abreast of them, but not promising to be content with that position. What glorifies a town like a cathedral? What dignifies a province like a university? What illuminates a country like its scholarship, and what is the nest that hatches scholars but a library?

O. W. HOLMES.

It is not necessary to maintain the direct practical utility of all kinds of learning. Our shelves contain

many books which only a certain class of medical scholars will be likely to consult. There is a dead medical literature, and there is a live one. The dead is not all ancient, the live is not all modern. There is none, modern or ancient, which, if it has no living value for the student, will not teach him something by its autopsy. But it is with the live literature of his profession that the medical practitioner is first of all concerned. H.

Thus a library, to meet the need of our time, must take, and must spread out in a convenient form, a great array of periodicals. Our active practitioners read these by preference over almost everything else. Our specialists, more particularly, depend on the month's product, on the yearly crop of new facts, new suggestions, new contrivances, as much as the farmer on the annual yield of his acres. One of the first wants, then, of the profession is supplied by our library in its great array of periodicals from many lands in many languages. Such a number of medical periodicals no private library would have room for, no private person would pay for, or flood his library with if they were sent him for nothing. H.

A great portion of the best writing and reading—literary, scientific, professional, miscellaneous—comes to us now, at stated intervals, in paper covers. The writer appears, as it were, in his shirt-sleeves. As soon as he has delivered his message the book-binder puts a coat on his back, and he joins the forlorn brotherhood of "back volumes," than which, so long as they are un-

indexed, nothing can be more exasperating. Who wants a lock without a key, a ship without a rudder, a binocular without a compass, a check without a signature, a greenback without a goldback behind it? H.

But if indexing is the special need of our time in medical literature, as in every department of knowledge, it must be remembered that it is not only an immense labor but one that never ends. It requires, therefore, the cooperation of a large number of individuals to do the work, and a large amount of money to pay for making its results public through the press. H.

Our American atmosphere is vocal with the flippancy of half knowledge. We must accept whatever good can be got out of it, and keep it under as we do sorrel and mullein and witchgrass, by enriching the soil, and sowing good seed in plenty, by good teaching and good books, rather than by wasting our time in talking against it. Half knowledge dreads nothing but whole knowledge. H.

Yet I have known a practitioner—perhaps more than one—who was as much under the dominant influence of the last article he had read in his favorite medical journal as a milliner under the sway of the last fashion-plate. H.

It is needless to say, then, that all the substantial and permanent literature of the profession should be represented upon our shelves. Much of it is there already, and as one private library after another falls into this

by the natural law of gravitation, it will gradually acquire all that is most valuable almost without effort. H.

We need in this country not only the scholar, but the *virtuoso*, who hoards the treasures which he loves, it may be chiefly for their rarity and because others who know more than he does of their value, set a high price upon them. As the wine of old vintages is gently decanted out of its cobwebbed bottles, with their rotten corks, into clean new receptacles, so the wealth of the New World is quietly emptying many of the libraries and galleries of the Old World into its newly formed collections and newly raised edifices. And this process must go on in an accelerating ratio. H.

A library like ours must exercise the largest hospitality. A great many books may be found in every large collection which remind us of those apostolic looking old men who figure on the platform at our political and other assemblages. Some of them have spoken words of wisdom in their day, but they have ceased to be oracles; some of them never had any particularly important message for humanity, but they add dignity to the meeting by their presence; they look wise, whether they are so or not, and no one grudges them their places of honor. Venerable figure-heads, what would our platforms be without you? H.

Men were not all cowards before Agamemnon, or all fools before the days of Virchow and Billroth.

There comes a time for every book in a library when it is wanted by somebody.

I would extend the hospitality of these shelves to a class of works which we are in the habit of considering as being outside of the pale of medical science, properly so-called, and sometimes of coupling with a disrespectful name. Such has always been my own practice. I have welcomed Culpeper and Salmon to my bookcase as willingly as Dioscorides or Quincy, or Paris or Wood and Eache. I have found a place for St. John Long and read the story of his trial for manslaughter with as much interest as the laurel-water case in which John Hunter figured as a witness. I would give Samuel Hahnemann a place by the side of Samuel Thomson. H.

What shall I say in this presence of the duties of a librarian? His work is not merely that of administration, manifold and laborious as its duties are. He must have a quick intelligence and a retentive memory. He is a public carrier of knowledge in its germs. His office is like that which naturalists attribute to the bumble-bee—he lays up little honey for himself, but he conveys the fertilizing pollen from flower to flower. H.

Our undertaking, just completed—and just begun—has come at the right time, not a day too soon. Our practitioners need a library like this, for with all their skill and devotion there is too little genuine erudition, such as a liberal profession ought to be able to claim for many of its members. H.

The lot on which this building [the Boston Medical Library] stands is twenty-seven and one-half feet broad and sixty feet deep.

CHAS. P. PUTNAM.

The second story of the house is to be used for reading rooms. The back room contains current journals and books of reference; while a duplicate library for home reading will soon be placed upon the shelves of the front room.

P.

The house is mortgaged for \$8,000, but the interest on this will be more than met by the rent received from the medical societies for the use of the hall.

P.

We have hitherto not made anything like a public appeal for money, because we wanted first to have something tangible to show for which it should be employed. Now we invite you to examine the Library and see if it is worth assisting.

P.

We own a house admirably adapted to our purposes, valued at over \$20,000, subject to a mortgage of \$8,000, and a floating debt of \$1,000.

We have a hall capable of seating two hundred persons, which is rented by all the medical societies of the city for their meetings. We have a reference library of over 10,000 volumes and nearly 6,000 pamphlets, and a circulating library of over 2,200 volumes. We have capacious and convenient reading-rooms, well supplied with the current literature of the day.

CHADWICK.

In conclusion, I would merely point with pride to the rank among the special medical libraries of the country to which our library has attained in six years. It is exceeded only by the National Medical Library in Washington (founded 1865), with 54,000 volumes, the College of Physicians in Philadelphia (founded 1789), with 22,000 volumes, the Academy of Medicine in New York (founded 1846), with 17,000 volumes, the Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia (founded 1763), with 15,000 volumes, the New York Hospital (founded 1796), with 13,100 volumes.

CHADWICK.

I think I can best occupy the few moments which I propose to take by telling you something of the rise and progress of the Medical Library at Washington, of which I have charge. This library is now about thirteen years old; it contains about forty-eight thousand volumes and the same number of pamphlets, and is one of the best working medical collections in the world. This growth has been due to purchases, to exchanges, and last, but by no means least, to the liberality and public spirit of many members of the medical profession of this country, whose contributions have been large and numerous. To secure these contributions, however, requires in most cases personal application, and I used to search for them on upper shelves and in the closets and garrets of physicians with great success. As one of these book-hunting expeditions may have had some influence in the formation of this library, a brief account of it may be of interest. About three years ago, while in Boston upon one of these raids, I found myself in the

library of a physician who had recently returned from Europe, where he had made a collection of books and pamphlets relating to the specialty which he proposed to practice. Among these I observed some old and rare books which I ventured to hint "were peculiarly desirable for the Washington Library, where they would be acceptable and be of use to all physicians of the country," etc., etc. The works were promptly placed in my hands, and the doctor proceeded to ransack his shelves, handing down book after book, and asking "if the library had that," or "if it ought not to have that," until a pile had accumulated which actually made me hesitate and feel some embarrassment in accepting—although by dint of practice I had even at that time acquired a very respectable amount of assurance in such matters. I am glad to say, however, that I allowed no signs of my embarrassment to appear, but succeeded in looking as if matters were merely taking their usual and expected course, and that I carried off everything I could lay my hands on.

JOHN S. BILLINGS.

I have been often asked how many medical books we have yet to procure in order to make our library complete, and as it must be presumed that you also are aiming at perfection, some data on this point may be of interest. Counting each work as one, regardless of the number of editions it may have passed through, I think that of medical books which ought to be in our national medical collection we have about one-half. We can usually furnish the originals for seventy-five per cent. of the references given in modern medical works and

bibliographies and this is due to the fact that a large proportion of such references is always to articles in periodicals and that we have succeeded in obtaining over eighty per cent of all the medical journals and transactions which have been published throughout the world. B.

So much has been said by the medical press within the last year or two about our index catalogue that I presume you are all familiar with its scope. Up to the evening of November 30th we had indexed the original articles in 14,991 volumes of journals, 3,293 volumes of transactions, and 725 volumes of sanitary and hospital reports and miscellanies—in all 17,019 volumes. We are receiving at the present time, and regularly indexing before placing them on the files, 372 medical journals and 201 series of medical transactions and in addition to these we receive about 140 journals and 100 series of transactions, which are partially indexed. B.

The collection of medical works in the Boston Public Library amounts to perhaps 10,000 volumes, to which should be added cognate works on chemistry, etc. This will increase the number to 12,000 or 13,000. It seems quite unwise to have two independent collections so near each other, when a passage might connect them. I cannot yet point out the details of the desired cooperation, but I think that the time will come when the two libraries and that of the Medical School will be brought into intimate relations. This matter I commend to the librarian of the Public Library, to the dean of the Med

cal School, and to the president of Harvard University.
WINSOR.

I see in this library association an example of the true American method of self-reliant and independent action without governmental interference or help. ELIOT.

A hall and reading-rooms like these I should regard as a medical club-house. It will create a unity in the profession—a common interest. DAVID B. SMITH.

During my professional life I have often thought upon and constantly desired to see a medical library, founded and sustained by physicians and by generous lay benefactors, as this has been up to the present hour and I trust will be by the same parties through all future time. BOWDITCH.

Twice in my life have I known efforts of this kind to be made. Twice I have seen them fail of perfect accomplishment. It is true that the first effort established the journal and pamphlet collection of the Boston Society for Medical Observation, which now forms such a thriving part of this library. The second attempt was in the Suffolk District Medical Society. The matter was referred to a committee, and the effort failed wholly, and upon the ground that the Public Library of the city could do more for the purchase and care of medical works than the profession could do for itself. BOWDITCH.

The Library of the Chicago Law Institute has (Jan.

8, 1887, 601 shareholders, who have paid an initiatory fee of one hundred dollars, and annual assessments of twelve dollars or less. It has a very commodious room in the County building, on condition that its books are at all times at the disposal of the courts. It receives valuable public documents as fast as published.

EXTRACTED.

The physician, some may say, is a practical man, and has little use for all this book learning. Every student has heard Sydenham's reply to Sir Richard Blackmore's question as to what books he should read, meaning medical books. "Read Don Quixote," was his famous answer. But Sydenham himself made medical books, and may be presumed to have thought *those* at least worth reading. Descartes was asked where was his library, and in reply held up the dissected body of an animal. But Descartes made books, great books, and a great many of them. A physician of common sense without erudition is better than a learned one without common sense, but the thorough master of his profession must have learning added to his natural gifts.

II.

Five hundred copies of the charter, by-laws, circular letter, and information on medical libraries were printed and distributed to solicit contributions for a medical house and library during the winter of 1882-1883. Employed solicitors visited physicians by appointment, presented the claims of the Library Association, and asked for subscriptions. These solicitors made daily reports to the secretary, and the original papers upon which these reports were written, together with the letters received from physicians were kept on file, and are now in the Archives of the Chicago Historical Society.

The secretary, with the assistance of Dr. Ludwig Hektoen, bought the library of Dr. James S. Jewell from the executor of the Jewell estate, Frank P. Crandon, for one thousand dollars. The financial statement of the Association's treasurer is to be found in the

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North American Practitioner for 1890 (vol.ii,p.512). The ultimate transfer of the Association's library to the Newberry Library was made on March 7th, 1890 (ibid., 209), and a receipt for the same is with the papers of the Association deposited with the Chicago Historical Society (ibid., p.511).

The forty cases of ^{the} James S. Jewell library were never unpacked until they came into the possession of the Newberry Library.

In 1907 the medical department of the Newberry Library was transferred to the John Crerar Library.

Bayard Holmes.

Note made on
January 30th, 1917.

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